

The Library Binder

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EDITORIAL STAFF

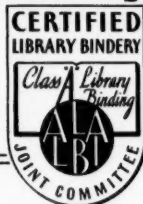
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LIBRARY BINDING INSTITUTE
IN THE INTEREST OF
INCREASED USAGE AND PROPER
PRESERVATION OF BOOKS.

What! No Miracle Binders?

by J. HOWARD ATKINS

From time to time, library binders are requested to produce something less than Class "A" binding. This may be referred to as a Class "B" binding, "Flush Cut" binding, a "Storage" binding, or perhaps in some other way. Usually, this applies to magazines, seldom to books. Always, it means the same thing, namely, that the customer desires a less costly binding, even though it admittedly must be less good. The idea of a lower price is laudible, even though, in its practical application, it may be impossible. However, from a carefully studied customer point of view, it is more costly, rather than less costly, in the long run.



No certified library binder opposes cheaper binding, just for the sake of keeping prices up. He knows that if he can produce good work for less money than he presently charges, he will obtain new customers and do more business. Why then, does he oppose the idea? The answer is simple: He also knows that the product which he now produces, represents the minimum that can be called good. Any thing less, not only leaves out something that is essential, but beyond that, costs little less to produce. Therefore, what the customer might save in the first cost, he would more than lose in the final analysis. Substandard binding is money wasted.

Can the library binder support this position? Let's look at the facts. At the outset, let's be absolutely honest with ourselves by saying that we do not think that most librarians know near as much about library bookbinding as they should. They have little knowledge of the various operations involved in the bind-

ing of a book or a magazine, or the absolutely vital reasons for them. If they knew more about such things, they would realize how impractical, indeed, how impossible it is to omit any of the bindery operations, and still produce good, or even acceptable work. The striking fact is that anything which might possibly be eliminated, even at the expense of good work, would save so little, that even those librarians who propose cheaper bindings, would not be in favor of it.

The proper binding of a library book or magazine involves fifty (50) operations, more or less, depending upon the bindery and the type of work. Most of these operations are not, in themselves, expensive. Their individual costs may be expressed in pennies, so that the elimination of many of them, if possible and practical (which it is not), would not materially effect production costs.

Here are two examples: How would a librarian like a book not trimmed, thus preserving the dirty edges which adorned it when it was taken out of circulation and sent to the bindery? And how much would it save? Strange as it may seem, it would actually cost *more*, because trimming the end leaves individually, which would have to be done, would be more expensive than trimming the entire book.

Also, how about not rounding and backing a book? Entirely aside from the mechanical objections, such as, "where would the boards be placed if the book had no joints, and how would it open and retain its shape if it had no round," one might ask what the effect would be upon the borrowers, if shapeless books were offered to them, which were merely square blocks of paper, unappealing, almost unreadable. Yet such books would be practically as expensive to produce as books properly rounded and backed.

These examples could be multiplied to include practically all the individual operations which go into a Class "A" binding. Each is relatively inexpensive in itself. Yet each plays an indispensable part in the completed binding. The more expensive operations, of which there are only a few, may be variously termed, but are as follows:

ENTERING: This means counting the

books, checking them against lists, checking bindery slips, making out job or shop tickets, indicating binding directions. In short, it means doing all of the necessary preliminary clerical work, incident to handling a bindery order, according to the customer's desire. This operation is a *POSITIVE MUST!* because, otherwise, we couldn't account for property belonging to our customers.

MENDING AND COLLATING: Unless the librarian is willing to offer a borrower a book or a magazine which may be incomplete, this also, is a *MUST* operation. Nothing can be more disconcerting to a reader than a missing page at the most interesting part in a story, or to a student whose research is interrupted because the wanted page is not there. If collating is omitted or not properly done, valuable charts and maps are bled or otherwise ruined, brittle paper which calls for special sewing through the fold is not noticed, and foreign articles, such as paper clips, are not removed, causing damage to valuable machinery. Mending and collating done at the library costs more than when done at the bindery, and often is handled improperly, due to lack of proper training. Binders frequently run into certain types of library mending, well intended though it may be, which makes rebinding extremely difficult and costly, or even impossible.

SEWING: Sewing may well be said to be the heart of a good binding. Without proper sewing, a book may as well not be bound at all. To attempt a substitute of any known kind, for the time-proven method of oversewing most books, is to destroy the inherent wearing quality (in other words, shorten its life) of an otherwise properly rebound book or magazine, with no worthwhile saving in production costs.

COVERING: Just as sewing is the heart of a good book, so is the cover its hide. No book will wear longer than its cover, and the difference between the cost of a cover well made from Class "A" materials, and one which is made from cheaper fabrics, amounts to no more than the cost of one or two additional circulations. The greatest tribute to a properly made cover is, that it has outworn the paper in a book, which is exactly what it is supposed to do. The fact that it does so, is the reason why the paper, no matter how poor, wears longer than it otherwise would. And let no one make the mistake of referring to an illustrated picture cover as a luxury binding. To the contrary, it represents the most forward technological advancement in library binding, that has taken place in the past quarter century. It has resulted in a much better looking book, with a definite circulation appeal and at lower production cost than that of a plain cover with no illustration

which must be stamped in gold or foil on the back only.

INSPECTION: The final inspection for proper sewing, correct lettering and general appearance, is combined with the necessary clerical work involved in checking books before they are returned to the customer. Aside from being imperative to invoicing, this operation eliminates most mistakes and results in better work, as well as customer satisfaction.

Expensive though these operations may be, it would be difficult and even impossible to justify their elimination or a substitute for them.

Clearly, then, there is no substitute for a good binding made according to the Minimum Class "A" Specifications. The experience of librarians themselves is proof to support our claim that the first cost of anything less than Class "A" binding is almost as much as such binding. In the long run there is no question but that it is more costly. We want to point out, however, that there is nothing to stop any binder from making a storage or sub-standard binding if he and the customer can devise something to suit the purpose. If this is done, it should be with the clear understanding that it is makeshift and unworthy of the name library binding, or else that so little will be saved, as to make it impractical. An example of this is, that the taking apart and collating of periodicals is perhaps the most expensive of all the binding operations. A storage binding that involves greatly reduced cost must necessarily eliminate this important operation. Not many librarians would approve of it.

Let us look at the problem from another angle — what are the elements that enter into the cost of rebinding? In the final analysis the cost of library binding consists of three things, namely: labor, materials and overhead. Overhead is something over which the binder has little control. What, for example, can he do about reducing the cost of taxes, power, light, heat, rent, transportation, and the many other items which come under this category?

When it comes to materials, the difference between the cost of those which are approved under Class "A" Specifications and the very poorest that are available, amounts to so little on a "per book" basis as to make consideration of the cheaper fabrics entirely impractical. They would be more, rather than less, costly, in the long run.

Now we come to that always controversial subject of labor. Despite extensive mechanization, labor is the largest item of cost in rebinding. Furthermore, library bookbinders have to compete in the market for labor with every other industry, including defense industries working on government contracts, which for various reasons can afford to pay

April, 1953

The Library Binder

Origins and
Aims of L. B. I.by BERNARD SCHAEFER, President
Library Binding Institute

To justify its existence a trade association must serve three masters: its members, its customers, and the general public. In our last issue I discussed the aims of L.B.I. with respect to our customers, the librarians of America. I pointed out, in brief, that our aim was by close cooperation with the profession, to serve librarians in all matters affecting

problems of book conservation.

Our objective with respect to binders is to do by collective action what individually we cannot alone do. Indeed, in this task we are participating with the thousands of other trade associations which have done so much to preserve our competitive system of free enterprise.

A roster of our activities reveals the success which we have had in this objective. One of our foremost activities is our Public Relations Program. An example of this is our now well known "Bare Foot Boy" Poster. Almost 4,000 of these posters have been distributed to librarians. Each carries a significant message: "Your Public Library is Helping to Make the Better Citizen of Tomorrow." There is no problem which education cannot solve. The center of our education, the cultural focus of each community is our public library. We serve the public well when we serve the public library and by our cryptic message concentrate attention on its great importance to our civilization. Collectively we binders can do this, individually we cannot.

A second function involves establishing a system of business ethics for the industry. Our present petition before the Federal Trade Commission seeks to establish a Fair Trade Practices Regulation for the industry, thereby protecting the ethical businessman as well as his customer.

Third, we continually seek to improve the trade standard which is the foundation of our industry — the minimum specifications for re-binding and pre-binding. Proceedings are under way with the U. S. Department of Commerce which will result in making these trade standards a United States Commercial Standard. Such a step will do much towards simplifying the task of librarians and binders in deciding how to bind.

premium wages. As a consequence, wages have sky-rocketed to a point where we would have said a few years ago that we could not pay them and still stay in business. How has this affected prices? The startling fact is that, considered on the basis of the 1939 dollar, today's prices are approximately 10 per cent lower than they were on May 1, 1937! No greater tribute could be paid to any industry. And the reasons are technological advancement and management efficiency. We have kept faith with our customers.

How does this bear on the problem of what type binding to use? Library binding is a highly specialized form of bookbinding requiring strength, durability and appeal, to meet library demands. When it becomes anything less than this, it will cease to exist. It will not be library binding. The creation of a sub-standard product is *not* the answer to lower cost. It never will be. In improved methods to create better and even more attractive bindings at less cost will be found the answer. And library binders have admirably accomplished this purpose during the past ten years, otherwise their selling prices would be higher than they are today. But one must never forget that this cannot be reflected in lower prices to the library as long as wage rates continue to advance and labor insists that the fruits of cost saving devices be translated into terms of increased wages instead of lower prices.

Librarians can help the situation in several ways. More time should be devoted to the study of book conservation, particularly on these points: *what* to bind, *when* to bind, and *how* to bind. Library schools should help by devoting a proper amount of time to the same subject, and this means much more than the hour or two now allocated during the entire four-year course in most schools of library science. A workshop, or a series of properly planned lectures in library schools, can do more to bring about proper understanding of the economy of Class "A" library binding, as applied to book conservation, than all talk about sub-standard bindings can ever accomplish. Supplementing this, librarians must ask for and receive additional funds for bookbinding budgets in order to meet the demands of the times. It is no more possible for libraries to reconcile the cost of 1953 book-binding with a 1943 budget than it is for them to meet their 1953 payroll with a 1943 payroll budget, or for library bookbinders to meet their 1953 payrolls with 1943 income.

Over the years there has developed a large measure of close cooperation and confidence between the library profession and the library re-binding industry. Certified binders ceaselessly work to merit that confidence and further that cooperation by serving their customers well, and by making every binding dollar stretch as far as possible. They can and do produce good work at a minimum cost, but they are not miracle men — they cannot produce miracle bindings.

A fourth activity is in the field of technical research. We have developed procedures for handling mildew damage. We plan to work on simplified practice recommendations which can do much to standardize practices which can result in lowered costs for binding.

A fifth activity relates to the general subject of management practices. We have only just started this project and have sent out the first of a series of Management Bulletins. We plan to follow this up with a uniform accounting system, and generally try to take advantage of the collective best judgment of all.

Other activities include continual liaison with the library profession through the Joint Committee of A.L.A. and L.B.I. in matters of certification, specifications and mutual problems.

We also are endeavoring to obtain statistical data about our industry and one survey now in process of fact gathering relates to the extent of binding information given to students in library schools.

We are preparing colored stills of binding operations for use in acquainting librarians with the processes of binding.

In short, our field of activities covers the entire area of library binding and the problems of binders. We seek to promote a highly efficient and prosperous industry dedicated to the principle of competition and service. Ours is a dynamic program, and I have only touched on the highlights of our current program. But if as a binder you have a problem, then we as the collective group of binders are interested in helping you reach a solution.

205 Years in the Life of a Library

(From the Sesquicentennial edition of the
Charleston (S.C.) News and Courier)

One hundred and fifty years ago, the year in which the Louisiana Purchase was being negotiated, the Fourdrinier brothers were inventing the paper-making machine and three proprietors were founding the Courier, the Charleston Library Society was already a veteran organization of 55 years.

The society had not only weathered the Revolutionary War but had recovered from the fire, which in 1778 had practically wiped out the collection. In 1803, the membership was substantial. John Davidson was librarian and Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney was president.

The library, housed on the upper floor of the "new" courthouse, already 10 years old, had a collection of approximately 4,000 books. The

arrangement of the volumes, judged by modern standards, was rather amazing. According to custom of the time, they were placed on the shelves by size. Octavos and "infra," were on the top, quartos in the middle, folios on the bottom.

Sizes, sensibly enough, was also the measure of the length of time during which a book might be kept out of the library. "A Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Charleston Library Society, 1811," states:

"... Which volumes they may keep as follows: If a folio, and under 200 pages, twelve days . . . a quarto and under 200 pages, ten days. . . . Books of octavo size, and under, being in connection, may be taken out in sets, provided they do not exceed five volumes in the set; in which case the first volume may be kept ten days, and the set four days for every volume, over and above the first; but if taken out in single volumes, each volume may be kept twelve days. . . ."

The fines for overdue, lost or damaged books were also determined by size as follows:

"... If any member lends, loses or damages any book, or books, or retains any book, or books, or pamphlets for a period in succession longer than four months, he shall forfeit double the sterling cost thereof if folios, or quartos; and treble the sterling cost if octavos, or under, or pamphlets; the member in such case taking the book or set to himself; provided, always, that members residing in the country shall be allowed at the rate of one day for every 10 miles between the place of his residence and Charleston for the returning of a book, or books, after the time limited by the rules shall be expired."

Obviously, it was necessary for the librarian to have not only a strong back but also a mathematical turn and a thorough knowledge of the surrounding country.

In the years that followed, the Library Society held its own through earthquake, storms, and wars. It has continued for more than 200 years to serve the public over a wide area.

At present, the society, in its own building, houses a collection of more than 60,000 volumes and serves an active membership.

L. B. I. Institutional Members

Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Mich.

Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Mo.

Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J.

St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

April, 1953

The Library Binder

"The Minimum Specifications for Class 'A' Library Binding"

by LAWRENCE D. SIBERT

Why Were They Drawn?

The Specifications are a minimum standard of Library Binding. Through the years many kinds of Insurance have been made available for protection against fire, windstorm and other losses. This Insurance protects only those who accept its provisions and pay the required Premiums.

The Specifications were drawn and are available without cost to all Libraries for their protection against inferior bindings not suitable for Library usage.



What Do the End Paper Specifications Mean?

The Specifications approve three different types of End Papers — Type X, Type Y and Type Z. They require that each type consists of three functional parts: A pasted-down or outward end-leaf which becomes the lining for the inside of the book cover; at least two free fly-leaves; and the reinforcing fabric.

Type X is made of three leaves (usually a single and a folded sheet) and a single reinforcement of reinforcing fabric. It is made so the fabric or reinforcing material is entirely concealed when the binding is completed.

Type Y is also made of three leaves with a single reinforcement of reinforcing fabric. However it is made so the fabric or reinforcing material is visible when the binding is completed.

Type Z is made in two parts. A narrow piece of reinforcing fabric is tipped to the folded edge of a folded sheet of end sheet paper. This folded edge with the fabric attached is the part that is sewed to the volume. The other part is made by taking two single sheets of end sheet paper and these are attached to each edge of a strip of reinforcing fabric making the appearance of a strip of fabric in the center and a sheet of end sheet paper on each side. It is then folded about the center of the fabric. One side of part 2 is glued or pasted to part 1 and the other side forms the lining for the inside of the book cover.

The Specifications require that all end papers be constructed so that the sewing will go

through the reinforcing fabric the same as through the sections of the volume.

While all three types of End Papers are approved in the Specifications most binderies adopt and use only one of the three types because it is not practical to make and use all three types in a single plant.

How Can These Specifications Protect the Library?

Always specify that your volumes be handled according to the "Minimum Specifications for Class 'A' Library Binding." If you have any reason to believe the finished binding is not up to these standards write the Library Binding Institute, 501 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Fruit, Cheese and Books

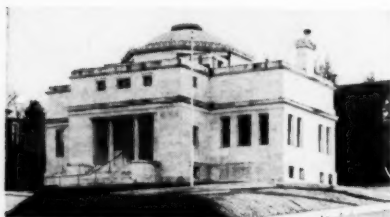
A little note on the care of books, written a few hundred years ago. From "The Pleasures of Publishing," Columbia University Press, February 1953.

"In the first place, there should be a natural decorum in the opening and closing of books, so that they are not unclasped in too great a hurry. . . . For we ought to take much better care of a book than of a shoe. But scholars as a class are commonly not well brought up, and unless they are held in check . . . are puffed up with all sorts of nonsense. They act on impulse, swell with impudence, and lay down the law on one point after another, when, as a matter of fact, they are inexperienced in everything. You may see, perhaps, a headstrong youth sitting lazily over his studies. He has long finger-nails, black as jet, with which he marks passages that he likes. He puts innumerable straws in various parts of the book . . . which . . . the book cannot digest and so becomes distended until it bursts its clasps. . . .

"Such a fellow does not hesitate to eat fruit or cheese over his open book, or negligently to set his cup here and there on it. . . . He never stops barking at his fellows in endless chatter, and while he produces an infinitude of reasons void of sense, he also sprinkles the open book in his lap with sputtering saliva. . . . Those impudent boys . . . as soon as they have learned to form the letters of the alphabet, immediately become incongruous annotators of the fairest volumes, and either ornament with a hideous alphabet every wider margin or write whatever nonsense comes into their heads. . . . It is only decent that we scholars should wash our hands before we begin to read; no greasy finger should turn the leaves. . . . Furthermore, the illiterate, who view a book with the same interest whether it is upside down or rightside up, are not at all suitable persons to meddle with books."

Curtis Memorial Library

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT



The Golden Jubilee of the Curtis Memorial Library of Meriden, Connecticut, was celebrated on April 20, 1953. The week of April 19-25 had been designated as Public Library Week and was celebrated by holding Open House in the library all week. Many celebrations were planned but the main event of the week was a commemorative meeting held on April 20, 1953 at which time Miss Flora B. Ludington, president-elect of the American Library Association, spoke on "The Public Library and the Community." Miss Ludington served with the Information Libraries in both Japan and India and is at present Librarian of Mount Holyoke College.

Although the 50th anniversary was celebrated, Meriden has had library service for a much longer period of time. In fact, one of the earliest subscription libraries was begun in Meriden in 1796. In this type of library, each user contributed a specific amount for the upkeep of the library and only those who contributed could share in the benefits. It was not for over a century, however, that true public library service was achieved. On October 10, 1898, at the annual town meeting, a resolution was made and passed to establish a Free Public Library. At that time \$500 was voted for books and \$500 for the maintenance of the collection. The first location of the library was in a house which rented at that time for \$18 a month. It was not until June 30, 1899 that the library was opened to the public.

Soon, however, interest in the library made it apparent that that location was not large enough to properly serve the community. It was at this time in 1901, that Mrs. Augusta M. Curtis offered to build the present building as a memorial to her husband, George R. Curtis and her daughter Agnes Deshon Curtis Squire, both of whom had been instrumental in the forming of a free public library in Meriden. The building was completed and opened for the public use on April 20, 1903.

The leadership of the library has stayed fairly constant over the 50 years. Only four head

librarians have been employed during that period. Miss Corrinne A. Deshon helped to organize the first free library and remained as librarian for 25 years after the opening of the building. She was succeeded by Miss Martha S. Bartlett who stayed until 1946. At that time, the first male librarian was employed, Mr. Ransom L. Richardson, who remained until 1952. The present librarian, James M. Hillard was appointed in October 1952.

The library in Meriden has been fortunate to have as members of the Board of Directors people of outstanding ability and desire to serve. One family particularly deserves credit for the achievements of the library, the children and grandchildren of Mrs. Augusta M. Curtis have long taken an active part in the institution that she and her husband helped to found.

Truly, the library has experienced a half century of progress from a book collection of 8,000 volumes to the time that the library has more than 66,000 books in the collection. It has grown from a location of two rooms in a private home until at present the Main Library and the West Branch can hardly take care of the demands for library service.

The Story of Minimum Specifications

When you go into a grocery store and purchase a quart of milk you are getting .946 litre of milk. You never inquire whether you are getting more or less — a quart is a quart wherever you purchase it.

Why is this so? Simply because experience has indicated to us that certain standards or measurements must be uniform. Otherwise, our already complex civilization would be immeasurably confused.

This is the same reason we have minimum specifications for Class A library binding. Imagine the confusion, and the loss of time and money that would result if each librarian or binder devised his own standard of measurement for binding. The realization of this fact is the compelling force which led librarians and binders collectively through their respective associations A.L.A. and L.B.I. to establish the minimum specifications.

The story of minimum specifications really begins years ago when library binding was first introduced in this country. Originally most every operation was by hand. Gradually new devices were introduced which mechanized many of the operations.

However, the basic facts of library binding have remained — it is largely a repair job with a bewildering lack of uniformity of sizes, thicknesses, and lettering. Unlike edition binding, where mass production techniques are available because of uniformity of product, library binding is characterized by diversity of product. Edition binding is as different from library binding as shoe manufacturing is from shoe repairing.

Prior to the formation of L.B.I. in 1933, library binders who were then affiliated with the Employing Bookbinders of America followed the earlier specifications of the A.L.A. After L.B.I. was formed, the A.L.A. and L.B.I. established a Joint Committee which has periodically revised these Minimum Specifications. It is the guardian of the standard by which the librarians and binders of America endeavor to conserve the written word. Binders pride themselves on the fact that their rebound books will far outlast most edition bindings, and that rebinding in accordance with the specifications is a distinct service to the librarians of America and their public.

What do the specifications do? Technically they are divided into five parts: Part 1 classifies the volumes into the different types commonly rebound; Part 2 summarizes the fifteen basic procedural steps through which a bindery goes in binding a book and establishes a standard for each one; Part 3 does the same thing for magazines; and Part 4 for newspapers; and Part 5 specifies the approved materials to be used by binders.

Only materials which have been tested, only steps which are essential, are specified. The reason is simple — the specifications represent the *minimum* for acceptable binding. When is a quart of milk not a quart? — When it doesn't meet the test of .964 litre. When is a rebound book not a rebound book? — When it is not bound according to minimum Class A specifications.

Rebinding is essentially a problem of putting together materials. The heart of the process is its sewing (usually oversewing) whether by machine or by hand. The bulk of the cost is in labor, and substitute materials inferior to those specified by the Joint Committee while resulting in inferior binding can save only insignificant pennies in just cost — nothing in the long run. A book worth rebinding is worth rebinding according to the minimum requirements for acceptable binding. Otherwise, it is not a rebound book.

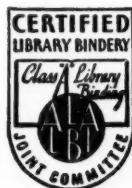
Of course, we can buy less than a quart, or more than a quart of milk. But in each case we are not buying a quart. The same is true in binding — we can get less or more than the minimum specifications. It is the prerogative of librarian and binder to determine the individual requirements. Yet, if it is rebinding, only a book rebound by the standard estab-

lished for rebinding is a rebound book. To take away one or more of the specifications is to come up with a product which is not a rebound book. To add to the specifications is to have a book which has more than the minimum requirements for anticipated circulation. Experience over the years has indicated that normally all a librarian has to do for books and magazines he wishes to conserve is to state "rebind according to the minimum specifications of A.L.A. and L.B.I. for Class A binding." More or less may be provided in special situations, but for acceptable rebinding only one specification meets the minimum tests of the profession.

In these days of rising prices cost is of utmost importance. Three items enter into a binders cost — labor, material and overhead, and labor is by far the dominant element. Competition determines prices, and prices are a matter for each librarian and his binder or binders to decide.

Binding is a craft, requiring skill and responsibility. How can I get binding which meets the minimum specifications? To this question often asked by librarians, the answer is simple. Use a Certified Binder.

What is a *Certified Binder*? He is a binder whose work has been examined by the Joint Committee. If the binding meets the specifications, he is certified as capable of doing Class A binding. Proudly he displays this seal:



A responsible craftsman, he merits the confidence and trust of the profession.

What of the future of the specifications? Currently the industry, through L.B.I. is endeavoring to have the minimum specifications made into a U. S. Commercial Standard. This action will make a trade standard a legal standard, with the same certainty for the profession that a quart of milk has for the housewife.

Originally printed in the Proceedings of the Sixtieth Annual Conference of the American Library Association, October 15, 1938, copies of the revised specifications are available from your certified binder or L.B.I. (501 Fifth Ave., N. Y., N. Y.). Write for your copy today.

D. A. W.

Convention Chairlady

Miss Flora B. Ludington, Librarian at Mount Holyoke College, now First Vice President and President-Elect of the American Library Association will preside at the Convention in Cincinnati the early part of May.



How a Book is Rebound

In the last issue we talked about what a librarian buys when he has a book or periodical rebound. In a general way we explained the importance of having books rebound according to the specifications which have been established by the Joint Committee of A.L.A. and L.B.I.

Anyone who has seen a book before and after it has been rebound cannot help but be intrigued by the process whereby a beaten, ragged book, victim of all the vicissitudes of circulation, enters a bindery, to come out fresh and beautiful, and indeed stronger than when it went in.

This process, involving many steps, is a combination of extraordinary machines, efficient management planning, and above all the skill of experienced craftsmen. Since the steps whereby a book is recreated are always fascinating to librarians and binders alike, we plan this as the first of a series of articles on "How a Book is Rebound."

Rebinding a book is as different from original or edition binding as repairing a pair of shoes is from manufacturing shoes. In edition binding, mass production techniques can be used. This is so because hundreds or thousands of books can go through a production run where every unit is uniform and peculiarly well adapted to machine handling. Not so with library binding. Each unit may be and often usually is different in size and thickness, as well as in a different state of disrepair. You may have noticed this when you prepare your books for the binder. Each one is a production problem in itself.

That is why the first step in the process of binding is the sorting of books. Since a binder is repairing property belonging to someone else, his first task is to count the books, comparing his count with that reported by the library. Then, since he will have books going through which belong to several libraries, he puts an identification number in each book so that each library will receive its own book.

Next, each book must be examined. No machine can do this operation because some books require certain repairs which others do not require, and some require one type of sewing and others a different type. This sorting is a matter of judgment, and after it is done, books are classified as to precisely what has to be done.

One of the most expensive processes now takes place — collating. Collation, which simply means determining whether the book is complete or each issue of a periodical volume is included, may be done by the library or by the binder. Usually the binder has to do this because only a thorough physical examination will reveal its completeness. There is not much point in binding a volume, subsequently to find that it is incomplete.

After collation, the books are segregated into those that are complete and ready for rebinding and those that are incomplete. The library is advised of the latter and these are segregated, awaiting further instructions.

The completed books, which have already been through the steps of counting or entering, examination, sorting, and collation — all hand steps, but essential to protect the property of the library, are not yet ready for the actual process or rebinding.

Old covers must be removed, pages mended or repaired, and the book divided into sections. Wire staples are removed from periodicals. Each of these is an essential step, each a hand operation.

The book has now been through seven operations and is ready for rebinding.

In our next issue we shall discuss the next several operations, each an example of skill, care, and above all an essential step in the conservation of the written word. For fundamentally, that is the goal to which binders and librarians are devoted — the continual recreation of our democratic ideals by preserving and making available to countless generations our cultural heritage.

D. A. W.

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FAIR TRADE PRACTICE REPORT

A Fair Trade Practices Conference was held on April 7 at the Commodore in New York to discuss the draft of a Fair Trade Practices Regulation for the Library Binding Industry. The draft, which was prepared and submitted by the Library Binding Institute, was unanimously approved by the Binders who were present including members of LBI and non-members.

A public hearing will be held by the Federal Trade Commission before adoption.

St. Louis Public Library Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The book bindery of the St. Louis Public Library, which began operations on January 27, 1913, celebrated its 40th anniversary on January 27, 1953.

The St. Louis Public Library bindery, which is one of the few binderies in the country operated by a public library, binds more than 12,000 volumes a year. It is located in the basement of the Central Library, 1301 Olive Street.

In 1913, when the bindery began its work of rebinding and re-enforcing books and pamphlets for the Public Library, Miss Mary Wheelock was chief of the department, and Oscar Haeckel, now foreman of the Public School Bindery, was foreman. Since that time there have been three department heads, and four foremen. Miss Wheelock served as head until 1921; Miss Mary E. Ensign, from 1921 until her death in 1937; and Miss Norma Gaisler, the present head, from 1937 to date.

Men who have served as foremen of the St. Louis Public Library Bindery include: Oscar Haeckel, 1913-1918; Peter Remming, 1918-1934; August Haeckel, brother of Oscar, 1938, until his death in 1950; and the present foreman, Frank Schmidt, appointed to that position in September 1950.

Many of the individuals who serve in the bindery have devoted most of their working years to the St. Louis Public Library. Years of service of bindery employees range from 28 to 40. Julius Haeckel, another brother of the

first foreman, joined the staff in 1913, and will complete 40 years with the bindery on April 9, 1953. Next in point of service are Frank Schmidt and Hazel Hoerle, both of whom joined the staff in 1915, and have been with the library bindery for 38 years.

On January 27, the bindery's anniversary was celebrated with an Open House for the public, the library staff and the library's Board of Directors.



The lady with the white hair (to the left) is Miss Della Cox, Secretary-Treasurer of the Bindery Women's Union, Local 55. The gentleman, standing next to Miss Cox, is Mr. Frank Schmidt, present foreman of the bindery. Kneeling is Mr. Glenn Moss, Secretary-Treasurer of the Bookbinders Union, Local 18. To his right, in the dark suit, is Mr. Oscar Haeckel, first foreman of the bindery when it was established forty years ago — his brother, Julius Haeckel, is standing in back of him. In the back row, the gentleman to the right is Mr. Louis M. Nourse, Librarian, St. Louis Public Library. To his right, Miss Norma Gaisler, Supervisor, Binding Department.

Among the Libraries

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS

The Public Library of Jacksonville, Illinois, held Open House on Sunday, February 22, 1953 to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of their building to the public on February 23, 1903.

Many of the store windows displayed the L.B.I. Color Posters and the Sunday morning *Journal* carried the full page black and white advertisement that is available from L.B.I. Headquarters. The cost of the ad was underwritten by ten local firms.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The new Veteran's Administration Hospital on Loch Raven Boulevard is equipped with two well-rounded libraries: a Medical Library for the Staff and a Library of Selected Reading for the Patients.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Mr. Arthur Whitenack, the former head librarian at Reddick's Library, Ottawa, Illinois, has taken up his new duties as the new librarian at the Joliet Public Library. Lester Filson, who has been at the Joliet Public Library for many years, has retired and returned to his native state of Kansas. Replacing Mr. Whitenack will be Mrs. Barbara F. Kelly who is now the librarian at Burlington, Wisconsin.

NOTES FROM OHIO

Doris Wood, librarian at the John McIntire Library, Zanesville, Ohio, has left, and is now in the Catalog Department at Columbus Public Library.

Mrs. William Clark, the former Phyllis Hansberger, is leaving her position as state organizer. Mrs. Clark served as head librarian at New Philadelphia prior to her position as state organizer.

Miss Elizabeth Earle has left her position in the Catalog Department at Lima and is now working with her sister at the Akron Public Library.

John Rebenack, librarian at Salem Public Library, will not take up new duties as librarian at Elyria, Ohio.

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Miss Elsie McKay, who for twenty-eight years has been Librarian at the Oak Park Public Library, has retired. Though she modestly disclaims all credit, some of the special services instituted at the library during Miss McKay's regime include the hospital service, under which books are circulated on two days a week for patients in West Suburban and Oak Park hospitals. The hospitals also have ceiling projectors (two donated by Zonta and one by the Friends of the Library) which permit patients in casts or unable to move the opportunity to read. For shut-ins and invalids, the library provides books by messenger once every three weeks.

The new Librarian who is taking Miss McKay's place is Mr. Frederick Wezeman.

How Many Skilled D.P.'s?

Editor's Note: Mr. Ort, of Art Guild Bindery, sent us this item. Perhaps some of our readers know displaced persons who have had bookbinding experience. If so, there are many binders who can use their services.

In early 1952 this bindery acquired the services of an experienced bookbinder, a displaced person from Austria. The circumstances under which this man became a member of our organization were quite unusual. This man and his wife and two small children were brought to this country under the sponsorship of a lumberman in Georgia. He was to be employed as a sort of lumberjack and the firm was to provide him and his family with a cottage of some sort in addition to a nominal wage. That much red tape and numerous delays accompany the involved proceedings of bringing a displaced family to the United States is readily understandable to anyone who has ever had dealings with governmental agencies. Therefore, it is not surprising that a complete year elapsed from the day application was made by the sponsor until the day the anxious immigrant family landed at the port of New Orleans.

When the Georgia sponsor was notified of the arrival of his protege from Austria he had already placed someone else and no longer needed additional help. Since the law governing the entry of displaced persons into this



country does not compel the sponsor to follow through with his declaration of intention, the family was simply stranded and the Displaced Persons Commission in Washington and Travelers' Aid Society in New Orleans had to get busy to provide shelter and sustenance. It was then noted that the newcomer's occupation was bookbinding and he was given the opportunity to demonstrate his skill in a local bindery. Because the supervisor of the bindery was personally acquainted with us he informed us, among others, of the facts of the case and the availability of this experienced bookbinder. After a series of long distance calls from Washington, D. C. and New Orleans, La., and an exchange of letters between the applicant and us, he and his family came to Cincinnati to work in our plant. A helping hand was extended to them from several families and today they are established in their new environs and the young father is still working in our bindery.

The only reason why we think this whole incident is worthy of telling is the fact that here in America the need for trained and skilled craftsman binders is getting more acute every day, and there is no evidence of a willingness on part of young boys to take up apprenticeship in the art of bookbinding.

What we are wondering is: how many more skilled D.P.'s were brought over here and are employed, perhaps at common labor, when their skill and craftsmanship could be put to more profitable use?

L.B.I. Creed

We, the members of the Library Binding Institute, in keeping with the high ideals of the library profession which we have the privilege to serve, join together to share our knowledge; striving to find improved methods in the preservation of the printed word and in perpetuating the art of library bookbinding.



*Your Public LIBRARY is helping to make
the BETTER CITIZEN of TOMORROW!*

Barefoot Boy Poster has exceeded all expectations . . .

As this issue of the "Binder" goes to press, approximately 5000 of these colorful, story-telling posters have been distributed throughout the country. . . . Glowing reports reaching us daily pay tribute to its far-reaching effectiveness in stimulating public interest in local libraries. . . . Your library can use these posters to advantage. Contact your L.B.I. Member today.

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DIETER BOOK BINDING Co.
1130 — 23rd Street, Denver

CONNECTICUT

PECK BINDERY
P. O. Box 977, New Haven

GEORGIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY BINDERY Co. of Ga.
2395 Peachtree Rd., N. E. Atlanta

ILLINOIS

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306 W. Randolph Street, Chicago
ERNST HERTZBERG & SONS
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NEW METHOD BOOK BINDERY
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HECKMAN BINDERY, Inc.
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271 Park Street, West Springfield
J. S. WESBY & SONS
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MISSOURI

BANNER BOOK BINDING Co.
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CHIVERS BOOK BINDING COMPANY
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DESS & TALAN COMPANY
219 East 144th Street, New York
GLICK BOOK BINDING COMPANY
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88 East 131st Street, New York
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RIDLEY'S BOOK BINDERY
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